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GOSCHKA PRAISES PROMPT COMMITTEE ACTION

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LANSING - Senator Mike Goschka, R-Brant, praised the actions of the Senate Appropriations Committee as his colleagues unanimously lent their support to his legislation that would allow the state to increase the bond cap to \$4 billion.

“The approval of Senate Bill 1189 is crucial to the continued maintenance, improvement, and construction of state facilities as well as the necessary brick and mortar investments required for the infrastructure of our higher education system,” said Goschka. “Without the ability to utilize the financial programs underwritten by the State Building Authority, Michigan’s colleges and universities could not erect the facilities our current and future students so desperately need to receive the top-notch education necessary for them to successfully compete in our global economy. I am grateful to the leadership of Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Shirley Johnson, R-Troy, in agreeing with me for the need to move this important legislation forward.”

The bond cap, currently set at \$2.7 billion, establishes a borrowing limit for the State Building Authority, the agency that provides low-cost funding for varied capital projects in the state.

(More)

“Michigan has already authorized expenses that currently account for just over \$2 billion under the present limit,” said Goschka. “The Governor’s budget proposal, if approved as presented, would use 70 percent of the remaining balance.”

Goschka added, “The enactment of SB 1189 will provide the authority with the flexibility needed in the coming years to meet the expected and unexpected demands for brick and mortar investments in our state. Further, it will give our higher education institutions the opportunity to expand programs of greatest need within Michigan so as to keep graduates in our state. The need for more nursing graduates is first and foremost in terms of jobs that are immediately available – today!”

The bond cap was last raised in 1997. Sen. Goschka pointed out that if the cap had been adjusted for inflation annually since the last increase, today’s cap would be \$3.83 billion. That, he said, puts his proposed increase in line with reality in today’s world.

The measure now goes to the full Senate.